

# EI provides bombs through comms

Story and photo Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke  
455th EOG Public Affairs

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – In a country that seems to be stuck in the first century, the world's most powerful and advanced Air Force operates everyday among the blowing dust and dried mud huts of Afghanistan. Not only does the average family here lack computers, phones, electricity and even running water, but there is not even infrastructure established.

But inside the wire here a complicated network of electrical lines, cables and fiber optics offers a stiff contrast to the rest of the country.

Establishing phone lines, non-secure and secure Internet lines and other communications has been quite a challenge for Air Force Engineering and Installation, said Master Sgt. William Bevans, Combined Joint Task Force 180 EI team chief. The Air Force team is working with the Army to put up the communications around the base.

"The Air Force EI team is combined of members from the 270th, 212th and 214th Air National Guard Engineering and Installation Squadrons, deployed to Bagram Air Base," said Capt.



*Staff Sgt. Keith Heaverlo, CJTF 180, prepares a fiber-optic cable for NIPR Net computer systems.*

Andrew Kalie, CJTF 180 EI commander.

"EI is important here because we are installing the communications infrastructure, which is crucial to win the war on terrorism," said Bevans. Unfortunately, EI had to start from scratch here.

"The biggest obstacle for us is having too

many projects and not enough installers," he said. "I have three projects right now that are all being called number one priority." According to Bevans, more goes into phone lines and e-mail than what most people think.

See **COMMS**, Page 4

# Casspir serves countries worldwide

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4th Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – The recent addition to Bagram Air Base's fight against mine existence has de-mining teams safe and secure in the midst of explosive mine fields, but the arrival is far from new to the military scene. With more than 20 years in service, this mine proof vehicle is making the world a better place.

It's hard to imagine that this 10-ton, steel-tired mine crusher that now dominates the de-mining industry once was used simply for survival.

The Casspir Mine-Protected Vehicle first made its debut in Africa within areas that were once littered with mines and in areas

where mines were a threat encountered daily.

Developed in South Africa by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the South Africa Police, the vehicle was "a requirement from the police, who were patrolling borders infested with armed insurgents in 1983," according to Global Security's Internet site. The Casspir provided a high level of protection with a height assuring an excellent view and a low center of gravity that kept it stable.

"The big advantage the Casspir had over the numerous other mine protected vehicles in use at that time was that it could be repaired quickly and cheaply after a landmine detonation," according to Global Security.

See **CASSPIR**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*The Security Council on Thursday voted unanimously to adopt the U.S.-backed Resolution 1511.*

## United Nations passes Iraq resolution unanimously

CNN — The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to adopt the U.S.-backed Resolution 1511, which advocates additional troops and money to support the stabilization of Iraq.

Shortly before the vote, sources said Syria — the lone Arab country on the council — told the United States that Damascus would vote for the initiative instead of opposing it or abstaining, as it had previously signaled.

Immediately after the vote was taken, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, “The process has been difficult, but the outcome is a clear demonstration of the will of all the members of the Security Council to place the interest of the Iraqi people above all other considerations.”

Earlier Thursday, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder announced at the European Union summit in Brussels, Belgium, that Germany, Russia and France would vote for the initiative.

But Schroeder made it clear Germany and France will not be sending troops to Iraq.

Schroeder made his remarks after a teleconference with Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac to discuss the U.S.-backed resolution.

Putin’s press secretary, Alexi Gromov, told Russia’s *Interfax* News Agency that the three leaders had agreed on a unified stand on the draft resolution, but he did not disclose what that position would be.

The Bush administration is hopeful that a new resolution expanding the U.N. role and addressing the transfer of power to Iraqis will encourage more countries to offer troops and money to rebuild the country. The White House would like to have a vote before a donors’ conference on Iraq next week in Madrid, Spain.



*John Paul II has aroused praise and criticism during his 25 years as pope.*

## Pope says God wants him to continue leading

VATICAN CITY — Marking 25 years as pontiff, Pope John Paul II told followers that God was asking him to continue leading the Roman Catholic Church despite his frail health.

“He (God), while knowing my human frailty, encourages me to respond with faith ... and he invites me to assume the responsibilities that he himself has entrusted to me,” the 83-year-old pope said in a homily before tens of thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square Thursday night.

The pope, who suffers from Parkinson’s disease and is unable to walk without assistance, delivered the homily during Mass at the Vatican.

Appearing frail and speaking with a wavering voice, the pope told his followers, “A good shepherd stays with his flock” — a line thought by analysts to be a direct reference to the question of whether he might resign.

The pontiff also appealed to Catholics “to continue my work of love.”

In his homily, the pope recalled the day

in 1978 he was elected by cardinals in the Sistine Chapel.

“How could I, humanly speaking, not tremble? How could such a huge responsibility not weigh on me,” he said.

As has become recent custom, the pope read only parts of his homily and an aide read most of it to conserve the pontiff’s strength.

The pope sat in a chair rolled onto a dais in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City. His face was often contorted and his right hand shook, but the pope was actively involved during the two-hour Mass, participating in all parts of the service.

John Paul II is the third-longest serving pontiff and has been lauded with taking the church out of the Vatican with his many miles of traveling.

## Probe under way in deadly ferry crash

NEW YORK — Attention turned Thursday to the pilot of the Staten Island ferry that slammed into a concrete pier a day earlier, killing 10 people and injuring 42.

Assistant Capt. Richard Smith remained in critical condition Thursday afternoon at St. Vincent’s Hospital on Staten Island.

New York City Councilman Michael McMahon said city officials believe Smith had passed out at the vessel’s controls due to an unspecified medical condition.

Law enforcement sources told CNN that tests show Smith did not have alcohol in his bloodstream during the accident. The results of a drug test is still pending.

Other officials, including those at the National Transportation Safety Board, avoided discussing any theories about the cause of the accident.

“There are a lot of conflicting stories about what happened on the bridge yesterday,” NTSB Chairwoman Ellen Engleman told CNN. “We are looking to find the probable cause of this tragedy.”

The NTSB began interviewing crew members at 1 p.m. Thursday, Engleman said. Investigators are also looking into weather factors and trying to determine if all regulations were followed.

## CFC-O helps family to be at son's side in time of need

**Ramstein Air Base, Germany** — Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brian McCollum, Jr. gave regularly to the Combined Federal Campaign through payroll allotment, but he never thought that he or his family would ever need the support of a CFC-participating charity. He gave to help others.

McCollum was stationed with the 568th Security Forces Squadron at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. His parents were living in New Jersey.

In early October 2002, McCollum's parents were notified that their son had been in a horrible traffic accident. They immediately left for Germany where their son was being treated at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"All we could think about was getting to our son," explained Brian McCollum Sr. "We had no time to make arrangements for a place to stay in Germany."

Luckily, a CFC-Overseas-participating charity stepped in and provided a home-away-from-home near the hospital so that the McCollum's could be close to their son.

"They accepted us with open arms and provided a bit of comfort when we needed it the most," McCollum, Sr. said. "The volunteers even had a warm meal for us every night and provided us with transportation."

The McCollum's stayed at the facility in Germany for a month until their son was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. There they stayed at a house for three more months provided by the same CFC-O-participating charity. "The financial burden would have been tremendous if we would have had to stay in a hotel during Brian's recovery," said McCollum, Sr.

Their son still faces long-term rehabilitation, but he is making great progress. Part of that progress can be attributed to the fact that his family was able to be at his side providing him support and encouragement. The CFC made that possible for Brian and his family and assists others like him.

For more information on ways to contribute to the CFC-O, visit the website [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).

*(Information provided by a CFC-O press release.)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "Full Metal Jacket"

1530Z at the MWR Building:

A group of soldiers develop dehumanized personalities in their training and it shows in their tour of duty in Vietnam.



**Tomorrow:** "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze H: 75F L: 46F	Partly cloudy H: 73F L: 45F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Clear H: 84F L: 48F	Clear H: 84F L: 48F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Mostly Clear H: 75F L: 46F	Partly Cloudy H: 73F L: 45F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Sunny H: 76F L: 36F	Sunny H: 77F L: 40F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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## COMMS, from Page 1

"Copper lines and fiber optic cables must be routed underground," said Staff Sgt. Bret Beninate, CJTF 180 cable and antenna systems specialist.

Beninate said that amounts to a lot of digging, especially when new buildings are constantly being built here.

"Because of the base's rapid expansion, we stay busy putting up comm. 12-hours-a-day, every day," said Staff Sgt. Keith Heaverlo, CJTF 180 cable and antenna systems specialist.

However, EI's work begins well before

ground is broke and lines are spliced.

"The [Computer Aided Drafting and Design] team is responsible for drawing and documenting base blue prints associated with floor plans, telephone distribution systems, fiber-optic cable layouts and other communication systems," said Kalie. "They put it down on paper ..."

"And we make it happen," said Beninate.

Despite the long hours and extreme demand for their service, the EI airmen say they enjoy what they do.

"The most rewarding thing about my job is getting to see my customers use

the finished product," said Bevans. "When a call is made or an e-mail is sent, they have used something my team and I worked hard to install. My troops have given their blood, sweat and tears to get these communication missions accomplished."

Bevans and his team aren't reserved about what they do. They said they know it's important.

"Reliable communications are critical to the war-fighting effort," said Kalie.

"You can talk about us, but you won't talk without us," said Bevans. "No comm., no bomb."

## CASSPIR, from Page 1

"From about (19) 81 to (19) 91, it was used very successfully, then the war ended in 1989 and we had all these vehicles which we used in various other police roles in the urban environment," said Allen Stokes a South Africa native and an employee working for RONCO, an American de-mining company. "We used to drive up and down the roads (in the vehicle) because the mines were all laid in the roads."

This method acquired the title "spooking." Casper the friendly ghost was a popular character in the development period of the machine and so it seemed to be a perfect fit. The spelling was tweaked to incorporate letters from its makers and "Casspir" was born.

"We saw a use for them in mine clearance and developed the steel wheel," said Stokes in reference to the Casspir.

De-miners began running over anti-tank mines in Mozambique after the steel wheel was added to the vehicle in order to clear the land of mines and allow people to grow crops in their place.

It was "possibly the first successful monocoque mine-protected vehicle," according to Global Security.

From Mozambique, the Casspir continued to prove useful in other countries, including Angola, the Congo and Sudan, said Rudy v/d Westhuizen of Mechem, a South African international commercial de-mining cooperation.

Now that the Casspir has left its mark in Afghanistan, one more country can be added to that list.

Currently, several varieties of the Casspirls are out on the market providing the international community with a variety to choose from depending on their needs.



*The Casspir, a 10-ton steel, armor-bodied vehicle, is used throughout the international community for various reasons and is a gem on the market because it is one of the most successful mine-protected vehicle's available.*

"In India, they will be used for counter-insurgency operations," according to Global Security. In many parts of the world, the device will be used as a de-mining tool while in others it is "used for transportation of troops ... providing for passive mine defense."

According to Mechem's Internet site, the Casspir can fill the roles of personnel carrier, utility freight carrier, recovery vehicle, tanker and ambulance.

The Casspir is "undoubtedly one of the world's leaders in its field with over 2000 in service

in several countries and an enviable record as a life preserver in mine protection of the occupants," according to Global Security.

The steel wheels applied for de-mining purposes have been used extensively in Mozambique and Croatia, require minor maintenance and are easy to replace, according to Mechem. They are good for most terrain, require little technical support and are "claimed to detonate more than 80 percent of anti-personnel mines in area covered."

Because it was "originally developed for the rigorous conditions of South Africa where a very high mine threat was prevalent, (the) Casspir is certified to protect its occupants against the effects of a triple TM-57 mine blast (equivalent to 21kilograms of TNT) under any wheel, or a double mine (14kg of TNT) anywhere under the hull," according to Global Security.

The Casspir is a "versatile Mine-Protected Vehicle successfully adapted to support mine action (and) is part of a series of mine-protected vehicles adapted for military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations," according to Mechem.

Saving the world may seem an impossible task, but with the help of the Casspir, it's not too farfetched.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## Clemens, Martinez ready to rumble again



*The Red Sox Nation's hopes ride with ace Pedro Martinez, who gave up four runs in seven innings against the Yankees in Game 3.*

**NEW YORK** — This is what the Boston Red Sox say they've wanted all along. And, really, even die-hard fans of the New York Yankees — are there any other kind? — have to love this.

Roger Clemens against Pedro Martinez. Again. This time for the last time. In Game 7 of the American League Championship Series. Winner goes to the World Series.

Loser ... well, loses.

It may be hard on the cardiac well-being of millions of baseball fans on the East Coast. But, for the game as a whole, you can't beat this with a 33-ounce Louisville Slugger.

"That's why they pay you guys the big bucks," Boston general manager Theo Epstein told reporters Wednesday night. "To find the polysyllabic word for this."

He's right, except for the big bucks thing. This is bigger than big. Or great. It's better, even, than awesome or stupendous. This is fantasmafreakingbig. This is stupendafreakinghuge.

This is reallyreallyimportant.

This is Game 7 in the most storied rivalry in sports. This is better, even, than a Game 7 of the World Series. Seriously. How do you get better than Red Sox-Yankees in the only postseason Game 7 they can play?

## Both sides in Bryant case take shots



*Kobe Bryant leaves the Eagle County Courthouse after a two-day preliminary hearing.*

**EAGLE, Colorado** — Prosecutors tried to portray Kobe Bryant as an arrogant superstar who forced himself on a 19-year-old woman even after she said no. Defense attorneys went after his accuser, suggesting she had other sex partners in the days before the alleged attack.

Now a judge will decide whether the evidence justifies putting the Los Angeles Lakers' guard on trial to face charges that could bring life in prison.

A two-day preliminary hearing jammed full of revealing details about both Bryant and his accuser ended Wednesday with one more startling revelation — that the panties the woman wore to her rape exam contained the semen of another man.

Both sides claimed victory, with the prosecution saying it presented clear evidence the woman was raped and the defense contending she lied about a sexual encounter with a celebrity she was more than eager to meet.

"She is not worthy of your belief," defense attorney Pamela Mackey said.

Judge Frederic Gannett said he would likely rule by Monday whether to dismiss the case or send Bryant to trial on sexual assault charges.

## Romanowski sued by teammate after dust-up

**OAKLAND, Calif.** — Controversial Oakland Raiders linebacker Bill Romanowski was sued Thursday in civil court by Marcus Williams, a teammate who was seriously injured when the two players fought during practice.

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County court, seeks unspecified damages for alleged battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The veteran Romanowski instigated the Aug. 24 fight when he ripped off Williams' helmet and punched the second-year player in the face, breaking a bone around his left eye. The injury put Williams on injured reserve — ending his season before it began.

No criminal charges were filed and Romanowski issued a public apology several days later.

On Thursday, Williams' agent said that was not enough.

"Seeing Bill's somewhat cavalier attitude in terms of apologizing after each incident and saying it wasn't going to happen again and never being taken to task for it was getting underneath Marcus' skin," said agent Lee Kolligian.

## Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

### Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ MLB World Series Special (live) 0000Z, 0330LL
- ❖ Tulane @ Louisville (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖ Friday Night Fights: Michael Clark vs Antonio Ramirez (live) 0130Z, 0530L
- ❖ Washington Capitals @ Dallas Stars (Taped Delayed Event) 0230Z, 1130L
- ❖ Tulane @ Louisville (Taped Delayed Event) 0400Z, 1530L
- ❖ Purdue @ Wisconsin (Live) 1230Z, 2030L
- ❖ Michigan @ Minnesota (Live) 1430Z, 2030L

### Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Iowa @ Ohio State (Live) 0100Z, 0000L
- ❖ Texas Tech @ Oklahoma State (live) 0300Z, 0000L
- ❖ Florida @ Arkansas (Live) 0601Z, 000L
- ❖ Florida Marlins @ NY Yankees (Live) 0730Z, 0400L
- ❖ LSU @ South Carolina (Live) 1230Z, 0415L
- ❖ Florida Marlins @ NY Yankees (Taped Delayed Event) 1530Z, 1530L
- ❖ USC Notre Dame (Taped Delayed Event) 1800Z, 1530L

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Three Taliban jail escapees said recaptured

**SPIN BOLDAK**, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – Afghan authorities have recaptured three of 41 Taliban prisoners who tunneled out of a jail in southern Afghanistan in a dramatic escape last week, an Afghan official said on Thursday.

A senior official of the Afghan foreign ministry said the three men were arrested a few days ago but did not name them.

“There is a possibility that more prisoners would be arrested on the basis of information of these people,” said the official, who did not want to be identified.

The prisoners escaped through a 3-meter tunnel in the main jail of volatile city of Kandahar last Friday, causing embarrassment for the government of President Hamid Karzai and presenting yet another security headache in the troubled region. Afghan officials say the escapees included five or six “important” Taliban figures including a brother of Taliban defence minister Mawlawi Obaidullah.

The foreign ministry official said Obaidullah’s brother was not among the three recaptured men.

Obaidullah has evaded capture since the fall of the radical Islamic regime late in 2001 and was named as part of a 10-man leadership council by shadowy Taliban leader Mullah Omar in June.

Kandahar province, which borders Pakistan, was the birthplace of the Taliban and has been the scene of many recent guerrilla attacks that have curtailed aid and reconstruction.

## Kabul warns northern warlords to end feuding

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (*IRIN*) – Following a ceasefire signed on Oct. 9 after serious fighting between two feuding warlords in Afghanistan’s troubled north, the interior ministry told *IRIN* that Kabul had told Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and Gen. Ata Mohammad – the two warlords responsible for the violence – that they would be removed from their government posts if they violated the fragile peace agreement.

“We have warned the two generals that if they fail to stick to the agreement and create any disturbance the government will seriously decide on their fate and they will be sacked from their current positions and will not have any role in the government now and in future,” Helaluddin Helal, the Afghan deputy interior minister, said.

Ata Mohammad heads the mainly Tajik Jamiat-e Eslami (JE) faction and is military commander of Mazar-e Sharif city, while Dostum, a former communist general and currently President Hamid Karzai’s security adviser for northern Afghanistan, heads the mainly Uzbek Jonbesh-e Melli-ye Eslami (JME) group. Dostum and Ata Mohammad have been vying for control of northern Afghanistan, along with a third ethnic militia, the Hazaras’ Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

According to the ministry, both commanders have been summoned to be in Kabul next Saturday to reaffirm the ceasefire. But there appears to be official scepticism over whether the deal will stick. “All those armed groups

are ignorant and illiterate people, they do not care to abide what is agreed,” Helal pointed out.

The United Nations in Kabul reported that conditions around Mazar-e Sharif had improved significantly and there was normal civilian traffic in the former troubled areas. “The situation in Mazar-e-Sharif, mainly in the west where the fighting took place, is reported to be calm with the agreements of 9 and 11 October,” Manoel de Almeida e Silva, a spokesman for the UN Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA), said on Thursday.

He said gunmen loyal to the two faction leaders had withdrawn, while armoured vehicles from the JE and JME had returned to their respective bases at Marmol and Sheberghan.

As a result of the ceasefire, the UN announced that it had lifted its ban on road travel to the area. “On Tuesday, all suspensions on UN road missions from Mazar-e Sharif on roads going west to Sheberghan were lifted,” the spokesman said, noting that verification of the situation in villages of Asya-ye Sharaf, Sara-ye-Asya and Shakazin in Chemtal District were still ongoing. “UN road missions to these particular locations are yet to be reviewed.”

Mazar-e Sharif-based British Provincial Reconstruction Teams and UNAMA are continuing to verify the regional security picture. “UN road missions and activities in Meymaneh and Faryab have also resumed, following suspensions which were put in place after the fighting on 7 October,” de Almeida e Silva underlined.

The recent fighting between the two factions was the worst in six months, and reportedly claimed over 80 lives.

***“I think Cpl. Smith's part-time job might be interfering with his duties.”***



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support

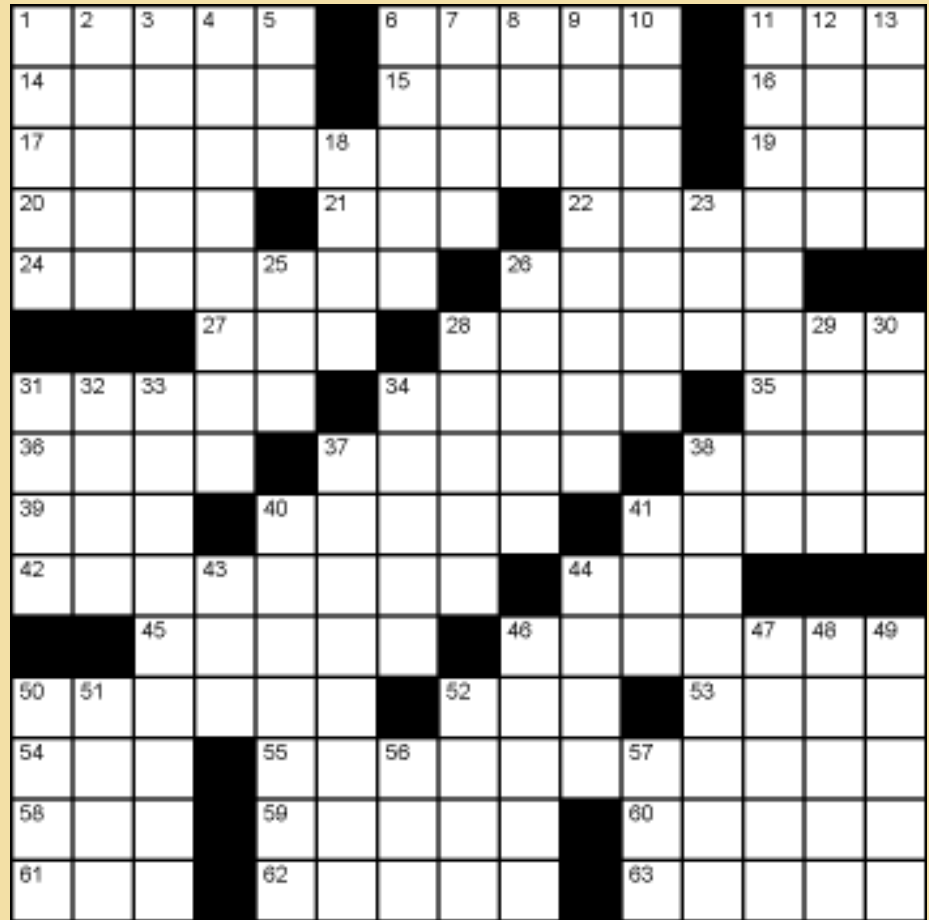


# Slippery crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## Across

- 1 Enjoy the rink
- 6 Tummy trouble
- 11 Shelley's "Queen \_\_\_\_"
- 14 Filled with freight
- 15 Runs a 10K
- 16 Old TV's "You \_\_\_\_ There"
- 17 Fruity soft drink
- 19 "Get it?"
- 20 Lacking locks
- 21 "You betcha!"
- 22 Soldier's helmet, slangily
- 24 Toughened
- 26 It has a floor but no ceiling
- 27 Steiger or Stewart
- 28 NASA mission start
- 31 Adrien of cosmetics
- 34 Glide downhill
- 35 Play about Capote
- 36 Jack or joker
- 37 TV exec Arledge
- 38 Feeder filler
- 39 "\_\_\_\_ had it!"
- 40 Unlike a dirt road
- 41 Gripped tightly
- 42 Like a ghost town
- 44 California wine, for short
- 45 Rowboat's rear
- 46 Rock's \_\_\_\_ Mode
- 50 Classic Chevy
- 52 Media mogul Turner
- 53 Auto or pluto follower
- 54 Bush Sr.'s former org.
- 55 Garden gourd
- 58 USNA grad
- 59 Basic principle
- 60 Old hat
- 61 \_\_\_\_ Moines, Iowa
- 62 \_\_\_\_ Park, Colo.
- 63 \_\_\_\_ Wences



## Down

- 1 Piggish sorts
- 2 Gold purity measure
- 3 Allan-\_\_\_\_ (Robin Hood cohort)
- 4 Offered as a payment
- 5 A Siamese twin
- 6 Rainbow-shaped
- 7 Role for Robin Williams
- 8 Post-E.R. place
- 9 Precedent-setting trial
- 10 Most pasty-faced
- 11 Propositioners' letters
- 12 Square footage
- 13 Borscht base
- 18 Took a gander at
- 23 Musical Cole
- 25 Chat room chuckle
- 26 Chan portrayer Warner \_\_\_\_
- 28 Got on the ump
- 29 Set loose
- 30 Wascally Wabbit pursuer
- 31 Acetic or boric
- 32 Super review
- 33 Reporter's means of entrance
- 34 Witches' gathering
- 37 Commuters' routines, often
- 38 Cushy gig
- 40 Church dignitary
- 41 Dignitary, for short
- 43 H, in Greece
- 44 Last letters, in Britain
- 46 Fender flaws
- 47 Jeanne of "State Fair"
- 48 Must
- 49 Early anesthetic
- 50 Slathered frosting on
- 51 "Make \_\_\_\_ a double"
- 52 Sloth's hangout
- 56 Windsor's prov.
- 57 Oil amts.

*Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch*